

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Community Meeting Thursday, January 8, 2004

The Community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 8, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., at Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ, 19190 Schaefer @ W. 7 Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48235.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton
Arthur Blackwell, II (ABS)
Erminia Ramirez
Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Megan Norris (ABS)

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Walter E. Shoulders
AC Harold Cureton
DC Cara Best
DC Willie Burden
Cmdr. Fleming-Freeman
Insp. Janice Butler
Insp. Wells
Lt. Hope
Sgt. R. Mitchell
Sgt. D. Jackson
Sgt. Stano
PO Womble
PO L. Brent
PO Reed
12th Pct Explorers

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Michelle McDonald, Community Affairs Coordinator
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Sidney Bogan
Isaiah McKinnon

Zeline Richard
Larry Nash
Pastor J. Drew-Sheard
Harry Gibson
Herman Vallery
Don Johnson
Jack Seaman
Anthony Simms
Cathy Garrett
Keith Williams
Sandra Hines

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hampton called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Vann read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 23, 2003 and Tuesday, December 30, 2003.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

RESOLUTION HONORING

POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM NATHANIEL PENN

- WHEREAS** Police Officer William Nathaniel Penn of the Canine Unit, retired on January 5, 2004, from the Detroit Police Department after more than twenty six (26) years of exemplary and dedicated service, and
- WHEREAS** William N. Penn was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on May 19, 1977; and
- WHEREAS** Upon graduation from the Detroit Police Academy, Officer Penn was assigned to the 7th Precinct. His other assignments included the 9th Precinct, The Tactical Services Section, and the Canine Unit; and
- WHEREAS** During his career, Officer Penn received two letters of appreciation, a Chief's Merit Award and a Citation. He was also selected as Officer of the Quarter on January 3, 1996; and
- WHEREAS** Officer Penn received specialized training as a Canine Trainer/Evaluator and handled on service dog for tracking. He conducted over a one thousand tracks with his service dog, making multiple arrests on high profile cases. He wrote thousands of traffic citations, made over one thousand misdemeanor arrests, and hundreds of felony arrests; and
- WHEREAS** His enthusiasm, patience, expertise and devotion to duty throughout his police career are indicative of the professionalism of Officer Penn. The dedication he has displayed to police service and to the residents of the City of Detroit has not gone unnoticed. He has enhanced the image of the Detroit Police Department, and earned the respect of the entire law enforcement community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

- RESOLVED** That the Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department acknowledges Police Officer William Nathaniel Penn. He is widely respected as a person of honesty and integrity and highly regarded through the law enforcement community as a professional. Police Officer Penn's actions
- were in accordance with the highest standards and traditions of the Detroit Police Department. He merits our highest regards and best wishes for her continued success.

We salute and congratulate you, Police Officer William Penn.

/s/ Willie E. Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell, II
Vice Chairperson

/s/Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

January 8, 2004

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to adopt the resolution for Officer William Nathaniel Penn.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION HONORING
MR. WILLIAM WELBORNE**

WHEREAS Mr. William Welborne has been a resident and community leader in the City of Detroit for over 55 years; and

WHEREAS Mr. Welborne has been a member of the Twelfth Precinct Community Relations Council for over 20 years, and he is currently serving as the Second Vice President; and

WHEREAS Mr. Welborne has been a member of the Blackstone Park Association for 20 years, where he has served as the Vice President and the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS Mr. Welborne has been instrumental in coordinating numerous neighborhood block clubs within the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Mr. Welborne, in addition to all the aforementioned activities, still finds time to volunteer for Twelfth Precinct Community Relations events,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Welborne. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the City of Detroit merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. William Wilborne.

/s/ Willie E. Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell, II
Vice Chairperson

/s/Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 8, 2004

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings presented Mr. Welborne with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Detroit Police Department. She also presented Mr. Welborne with the Spirit of Detroit award on behalf of the City Council Unit. Mr. Welborne thanked everyone for his award.

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to adopt the resolution for Mr. William Welborne.

SECOND: Comm. Ramirez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

| | <u>This Week</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Weekly Count of Complaints: | 24 | 24 |
| Weekly Count of Allegations: | 40 | 40 |
| Arrest | 4 | 0 |
| Demeanor | 15 | 0 |
| Entry | 0 | 0 |
| Force | 7 | 0 |
| Harassment | 2 | 0 |
| Procedure | 7 | 2 |
| Property | 1 | 0 |
| Search | 1 | 0 |
| Service | 3 | 0 |

Pending Cases

As of January 7, 2004, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **731 pending cases**, which include **150 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **26 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **105 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **65 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **204 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, and **121 cases** with an age of 7-9 months, and **60 cases** with an age of 10-12 months.

2003

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| During the past week: | 27 | Year to Date: | 27 |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|

5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of December 31, 2003 through January 6, 2004

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GANG DIVISION

Vice Section – conducted one enforcement action in the Fourth Precinct area: The enforcement action resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 11 arrests for "Disorderly Conduct/Flagging"
- 8 arrests for "Admitting & Receiving"
- 8 vehicles confiscated

Narcotics Conspiracy Section- conducted one enforcement action in the 6000 block of Cicotte, in the City of Detroit. The enforcement action resulted in the following confiscations:

6,829.0 grams of marijuana - street value of \$27,316.00

Narcotics Enforcement Section- conducted four enforcement actions in the following areas: 2700 block of Norman, 400 block of Jefferson Court, 12000 block of Vaughn and 6300 block of Linsdale, in the City of Detroit. These enforcement actions resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 5 felony arrests
- 11 misdemeanor arrests
- 6,829 grams of marijuana, 54.6 grams of cocaine, 51 grams of heroin - street value \$141,120.00
- \$1696.00 U.S. currency

SIXTH PRECINCT & TWELFTH PRECINCT

On January 1, 2004, an off-duty officer assigned to the 6th Precinct witnessed a hit and run pedestrian accident at Livernois and Puritan. The officer

followed the vehicle to a residence located in the 12th Precinct; he requested the assistance of 12th Precinct officers. The driver of the vehicle was arrested without incident, and later charged with "Fail to Stop at a Serious Accident

Causing Death, Manslaughter, Driving While License Suspended Causing Death, Negligent Homicide and Operating a Vehicle Resulting in a Felony.”

EIGHTH PRECINCT

On January 1, 2004, officers of the 8th Precinct while on patrol heard several gunshots in the area of West 7 Mile and Lasher. The officers parked their vehicle and checked the immediate area. As a result of their investigation, five subjects were arrested in possession of fully automatic weapons in the 18000 block of Greydale.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

On December 31, 2003, the Special Response Team (S.R.T.) conducted tactical training involving search and locate operations, accepting surrender and hostage rescue.

On January 5, 2004, S.R.T. was assigned to the schoolgirl detail, patrolling Detroit Public Schools and they provided special attention to financial institutions.

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

6. REPORT/PRESENTATION – TWELFTH PRECINCT

Commander Shereece Fleming-Freeman introduced the Twelfth Precinct Explorers who gave a presentation. Commander Fleming-Freeman also introduced her staff and gave an overview of the current status surrounding the Twelfth Precinct.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Isaiah McKinnon, former Chief of Police, presented the Chief Bully-Cummings and Board of Police Commissioners with copies of his book which he wrote as a tribute to every law enforcement officer in the history of Michigan. He stated that all of the proceeds from his book go to MICOPS (Michigan Concerned Police Survivors) He also presented a book to Ms. Zeline Richards, former Police Commissioner.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated she was pleased to accept the book on behalf of the Department. She stated that it is important that we remember the officers that we have lost throughout the years for serving the Department

and serving this community. She stated she is honored and would make sure that the book is placed in the Police Museum for everyone to see. She stated that she would encourage people to purchase the book knowing that the proceeds are going to benefit the widows and orphans of slain police officers.

Comm. Ramirez thanked the President of the Twelfth Precinct, Don Johnson for a great job.

Comm. Hampton stated the Board of Police Commissioners would be conducting a town hall meeting in March and we would like to have input from the community. Information regarding this meeting will be forthcoming.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Harry Gibson, a resident of Detroit, states that the police department is undermanned and as a result, there is a slow response time to breaking and entering or property crime calls and also a lack of police patrols within the community.

Personnel Director Bryant-Weekes stated that we are actively recruiting police officers and it is not a matter of raising the taxes. In fact, in light of possible budget cuts and deficits in the city, the Mayor currently has no plans of touching or doing anything with the police department and we are actively recruiting.

Comm. Ramirez asked Director Weekes if she would give the qualifications for becoming a police officer.

Personnel Dir. Bryant-Weekes states that the minimum qualifications for a police officer is that they have to be at least 18 years of age, a GED, and have no felony convictions of any kind. Certain misdemeanor convictions are excluded dealing with theft or integrity. In general, a college education is not required but we are interested in applicants who have some college education. Those are the basic requirements. The Recruiting Unit is here this evening for anyone who would like information. Please visit our recruiting office at 14655 Dexter or call 596-BEST or 596-2660.

William Welborne thanked Cmdr Fleming-Freeman and her staff for assisting him. Mr. Welbourne was carjacked three (3) weeks ago and Cmdr. Fleming-Freeman personally assisted him.

Herman Vallery, father of Lamar Grable, who was killed by Sgt. Eugene Brown, expressed his feelings concerning this incident and states that the Prosecutor's office should do another investigation.

Comm. Vann stated that he is the longest serving Commissioner serving on the board. He has seen Mr. Vallery and his passion for advocacy for the life of his son and family over the years that he has been a Commissioner. We have constantly as a Commission advocated for some sense of justice and closure for Mr. Vallery and his family. We continue to do so and we are still passionately seeking to get the Shoulders Report, which would give us some kind of information as it relates to policy that we need to institute to make sure that these kinds of things never happen again.

Comm. Vann states that he has personally watched this journey and this saga that is taken place with Mr. Vallery and his family. Our prayers are continuously with you and know that there are people here on this side that have not forgotten what has happened and are still vigorously doing whatever we can to try and bring it to some sense of resolve.

Don Johnson, President of the Twelfth Precinct Community Relations, asked if the Citizens Police Academy would still be taking place because the citizens are able to find out what happens in the community when they take part in the academy. He states that the city has a serious problem with dogs and would like to know the status of animal control workers.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings stated that the Citizens Police Academy is continuing. We are looking to elevate it and provide more training than what was received before. At the beginning, a new unit was created called Police Community Services, which is attached to the Training Bureau. The Citizens Police Academy will be a part of that and we still need the alumni. It is her understanding that Inspector Walter Martin is scheduled to have a meeting with some of the graduates of the Citizens Police Academy to talk about some of the committees that you can sit on and assist us in the police department. This is your police department, so we need your input. We do want you to know what is going on because as Mr. Gibson was speaking about not having enough police officers out on patrol. Part of being able to employ more people on the streets is having a community that is educated so that those matters they can resolve by knowing who to call, will free up time for officers to respond to "true" police calls for service. Yes, we are continuing.

Jack Seaman made suggestions to form multi-culture organizations to bring all nationalities together. Our children are dying in the streets due to the drug war.

Anthony Simms states that he is trying to start a neighborhood watch for the University district. He has received block club information that is not useful to him. He wishes to have support from the Department.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings states that the unit that she was speaking of is the Police Community Services Unit. They will have the function of Crime Prevention and Community Policing. Unfortunately, for the last couple of years, that kind of function disappeared and was rolled out into the precincts to manage individually. The problem is that our officers at the precinct are inundate at responding to calls for service. At the beginning of the year, we created this unit. I will give you the name of the commanding officer's name and ask that you call him. We are in the process of putting this unit together and neighborhood watch is one of the programs that we are going to put back in the forefront. It is Lt. Terry Herbert and I don't have the phone number with me, but he will be the commanding officer with the Police Community Services Unit. We will work together and we will make sure that we assist you in rolling out your neighborhood watch and provide up-to-date information and brochures for the community.

Sandra Hines states the Coalition Against Police Brutality will be coming forth a report on what the Coalition did last year as it relates to trying to combat police brutality in Detroit and the surrounding areas. One of the main topics will be police chases.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings addressed the issue regarding police chases. She advised the community and Ms. Hines on a number of things. In the years 2001 to 2002, there has been a 41% reduction in police chases in the city of Detroit, so it is not escalating, it is going down. Is it to the point where we want it? No, but we have had a major reduction. I have looked at those figures and the savings to the city of Detroit as far as liability yesterday. As far as the consent decrees are concerned, she is trying every opportunity that she can to talk about the consent decrees that the Department has; and there are two of them. As I have indicated before, I understood the outcry by the public in wanting the Department of Justice to come in and investigate the Police Department. The changes that are required under these two decrees are monumental. They will require millions and millions of dollars of which we as taxpayers must pay.

We did not get funding from the federal government when we received these two consent decrees. We are working and we are committed to coming into compliance. I don't want anyone to think that we are not committed to coming into compliance. But it is going to require millions of dollars and I want you to know that we are working very hard to make changes. Will the changes occur overnight? Absolutely not. Would I like to see them occur overnight? Yes, I would. But it is going to take time to correct problems that

have been in existence for years and a infrastructure that has been left alone for years but we are working towards that, and I thank you very much.

Cathy Garrett, Wayne County Clerk's Office, welcomed the Board of Police Commissioners to her community. She states that citizens are not aware of the duties of the Clerk's office. She explained the services handled by the County Clerk's Office.

Keith Williams, Wayne County Commissioner, welcomed the Board of Police Commissioners to his community. He thanked the police department for taking care of his mother who had problems in her community.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2004, @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien – Room 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/fyh